

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 449 235

UD 032 903

TITLE Summer Activities of Students Enrolled in Grades 1-12. Indicator of the Month.

INSTITUTION National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.

REPORT NO NCES-1999-008

PUB DATE 1999-05-00

NOTE 4p.; One of 60 indicators from "The Condition of Education 1998."

AVAILABLE FROM ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Tel: 877-433-7827 (Toll Free); Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/>.

PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Elementary School Students; Elementary Secondary Education; Internship Programs; Part Time Employment; *Recreational Activities; *Secondary School Students; *Student Employment; *Summer Programs; Summer Schools

ABSTRACT

Students engage in a variety of activities during their summer vacations that provide them with educational opportunities. In the summer of 1996, 9% of students in grades 1 through 12 attended summer school, and 38% participated in other organized summer activities. Among the students who were enrolled in grades 8 through 12, 26% worked for pay during the summer, 2% participated in unpaid internships, and 9% participated in community service. Examining the activities in which students participate may indicate the opportunities that students and their parents value most. (Contains one table and three graphs.) (SLD)

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National Center for Education Statistics

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May 1999

Summer activities of students enrolled in grades 1-12

Students engage in a variety of activities during their summer vacations that provide them with educational opportunities. Some students attend summer school to retake subjects failed during the academic year, to improve their basic skills, or to take courses that are unavailable or for which there is not sufficient time during the regular school year. If they are older, students may take college-level courses for credit. Other students may choose to participate in organized activities such as sports, or activities in which they do not have time to participate during the academic year, and some may work for pay or participate in internships or community service. Examining which summer activities students participate in may indicate which opportunities are valued most by students and their parents.

- In summer 1996, 9 percent of students in grades 1-12 attended summer school, and 38 percent participated in other organized summer activities. Among students who were enrolled in grades 8-12, 26 percent worked for pay during the summer, 2 percent participated in unpaid internships, and 9 percent participated in community service.
- Black and Hispanic students in grades 1-12 were more likely to attend summer school than their white peers. White students in grades 8-12, however, were more likely than black and Hispanic students to work for pay and participate in community service.
- Students in grades 1-12 were equally likely to attend summer school, regardless of family income. In contrast, students from high-income families were more likely to participate in community service and other organized summer activities and to work for pay than their peers from low- or middle-income families.

Percentage of students ages 6-20 who were enrolled in grades 1-12 and who participated in various summer activities, by selected student characteristics: Summer 1996

Student characteristics	Attended summer school	Participated in other organized summer activities	Worked for pay ¹	Participated in unpaid internship ¹	Participated in community service ¹
Total ²	9.2	37.7	26.3	2.0	9.4
Grade level					
1-7	7.5	41.9	—	—	—
8-10	9.9	35.5	13.2	1.8	9.0
11-12	14.9	27.7	47.5	2.3	10.4
Race/ethnicity					
White	7.3	45.0	30.8	2.2	10.9
Black	11.0	24.8	17.4	1.5	6.5
Hispanic	14.0	19.2	16.0	1.5	5.9
Parents' highest education level ³					
Less than high school diploma	10.5	12.1	14.3	1.1	3.4
High school diploma or GED	7.8	28.1	25.6	1.8	5.8
Some college	9.5	40.5	29.5	2.0	10.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.9	57.2	28.6	2.6	15.0

— Not applicable.

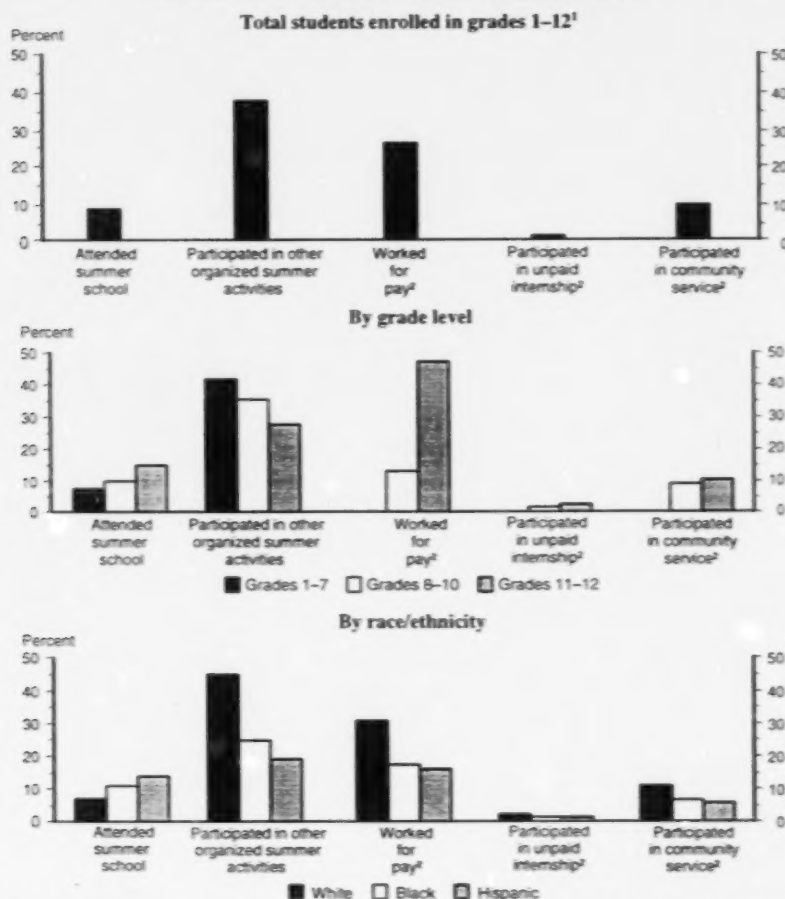
¹ For students enrolled in grades 8-12.

² Included in the total but not shown separately are students ages 6-20 whose grade levels were unknown, students from other racial/ethnic groups, and students whose parents' highest education level was not available.

³ A parent's highest education level was determined by merging information from the parent's records with information from their child's records. When no parent resided with the student, information from the child's guardian was used.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Survey, 1996.

Percentage of students ages 6–20 who were enrolled in grades 1–12 and who participated in various summer activities: Summer 1996



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² For students enrolled in grades 8–12.

* SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Survey, 1996.

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